NEAC in A.P.

1414. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have invited project proposals from non-governmental organisations to participate in the NEAC 2000-2002 in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of the projects and financial help expected to be offered; and

(c) the number of proposals formulated with the guidance of Deccan Development Society and submitted?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government have been inviting project proposals from the interested organisations including non-governmental organisations to participate in the NEAC every year in the country including Andhra Pradesh.

(b) and (c) During 2000-2001, 1192 proposals were received in respect of Andhra Pradesh for awareness activities like camps, padyatras, rallies, public meetings, exhibitions, essay/debate/painting poster competitions, folk dances and songs, street theatre, puppet shows etc. out of which 275 proposals were provided financial assistance to the extent of Rs. 15.98 lakhs. For the current year, the proposals are required to be submitted to the Regional Resource Agencies (RRAs) by 20th August, 2001. Deccan Development Society being the designated RRA for Andhra Pradesh is required to provide assistance to NGOs and other organisations for formulation of proposals.

Re-thrusting the Forest (Conservation) Act

1415. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some State Governments, particularly Madhya Pradesh, have requested the Union Government for re-thrusting the present Forest (Conservation) Act;